

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 065822
ORIGIN AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SIG-01 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LISBON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, AO, CG

SUBJECT:CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE - BORDER ATTACK ON ZAIRE
MARCH 24, 1977

1. PARAS 2-11 CONTAIN PRESS GUIDANCE PREPARED FOR MARCH 24
DEPT. BRIEFING, FOR USE ONLY IF ASKED.

2. Q: WHAT IS THE STATUS OF THE ZAIRIAN AID REQUEST?
A: THE ZAIRIAN AID REQUEST REMAINS UNDER CAREFUL
STUDY. I HAVE NO FURTHER DETAILS.

3. Q: WHAT IS THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUR RESPONSE TO
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THE AID REQUEST AND OUR VIEWS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF
NIGERIA'S EFFORTS TO FIND A SOLUTION?
A: OBVIOUSLY, SUCCESS OF THE NIGERIAN MISSION WOULD
MAKE FURTHER AID TO HELP ZAIRE REPEL AN AGGRESSION IN THE
SHABA REGION UNNECESSARY.

4. Q: DID THE U.S. ASK THE NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT TO

MEDIATE BETWEEN ANGOLA AND ZAIRE?

A: IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT NIGERIA RESPONDED TO A REQUEST FOR AID FROM ZAIRE AND ALSO TO ITS OWN PERCEPTIONS OF THE DANGERS FOR AFRICA INHERENT IN THIS INVASION. HOWEVER, WE WELCOME THE NIGERIAN EFFORT AND

HOPE TO SEE AN AFRICAN SOLUTION DEVELOP FOR AN AFRICAN PROBLEM.

5. Q: IS THERE ANY PROGRESS REPORTED YET DUE TO THE NIGERIAN EFFORT?

A: I HAVE NOTHING ON IT. YOU SHOULD REALLY ASK THE NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT.

6. Q: ANY FURTHER REPORT ON THE MISSIONARIES?

A: AS I SAID YESTERDAY, OUR REPORTS INDICATE THAT THE MISSIONARIES WITHIN THE AREA CONTROLLED BY INVADING FORCES ARE WELL.

7. Q: IS THE U.S. MAKING ANY EFFORT TO GET THEM OUT?

A: THE MISSIONARIES HAVE NOT INDICATED ANY DESIRE TO LEAVE THE AREAS IN QUESTION AS FAR AS WE KNOW.

8. Q: CAN YOU COMMENT ON REPORTS THAT ZAIRIAN PLANES HAVE BOMBED ANGOLAN VILLAGES?

A: I'M NOT IN A POSITION TO COMMENT ON THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ACCURACY OF THOSE REPORTS. IF IT WERE TRUE, IT WOULD BE REGRETTABLE.

9. Q: WHAT IS THE MILITARY SITUATION ON THE GROUND AND IN THE AIR?

A: WE UNDERSTAND THAT FIGHTING CONTINUES IN THE AREA WEST OF MUTSHATSHA , BUT HAVE NO FURTHER DETAILS.

10. Q: HAS THE ZAIRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER, NGUZA KARL-I-BOND BEEN TO LUANDA, ANGOLA RECENTLY?

A: WE ARE NOT AWARE OF ANY VISIT BY NGUZA TO LUANDA WITHIN THE LAST SEVERAL MONTHS.

11 IF ASKED ONLY:

Q: HAVE WE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH OUR FRENCH AND BELGIAN ALLIES TO DISCOURAGETHEM FROM SHIPPING ARMS AND HIRING MERCENARIES?

A: WE CONTINUALLY CONSULT WITH OUR FRENCH AND

BELGIAN ALLIES. WE ARE ALL CONCERNED WITH THE SITUATION
IN ZAIRE AND EACH OF US IS ATTEMPTING TO RESPOND TO THE
ZAIRIAN GOVERNMENT'S REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE IN THE WAY
THAT EACH OF US CONSIDERS MOST APPROPRIATE. AS FAR AS I
KNOW, THE SUBJECT OF MERCENARIES IN ZAIRE HAS NOT BEEN
DISCUSSED.
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Message Attributes

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